

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY 50X1-HUM

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COUNTRY	Czechoslovakia	REPORT		50X1
SUBJECT	Underground Plant in Strazske, near Humenne	DATE DISTR.	18 SEP 1957	
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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

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1. West of Strazske (N 48-52, E 21-50), about 10 kilometers from Humenne, construction of a large underground plant was started in 1951, and completed in 1956. Underground a 2-3 story hall was constructed as well as several auxiliary halls and a row of storage buildings built above the surface. New communications facilities, road and rail, were built at the same time. Plans for the entire project were worked out by the Hradec Kralove Projecting Institute and the construction was officially called Chemkostav Strazske. In May 1956, the plant was holding tests of all machinery and other equipment; however, production had not begun at that time. In 1955, the selection of personnel started. Reliable young people were chosen and sent to Poland and East Germany for special training. After half a year's experience they were sent for further training to a plant near Prague. The plant presumably was to serve military purposes; allegedly, a similar plant has already been constructed in Poland. The plant is guarded by VS (Interior Guard) personnel who are billeted inside the plant. A special cable leads from Michalovce to the plant. The plant, as well as the administration buildings, has its own automatic telephone exchange.
2. Details on production are kept secret. There is, however, planned production of germanium and metal threads for electrons (sic). It is rumored that the plant will employ about 7,000 persons.
3. Construction of a housing development and buildings for administrative and technical branches, which are not in the plant's area, was started at the same time as the plant. One part of the development stands on the north outskirts of Strazske, which will house offices of the plant; also some administration and technical staff will be billeted there. There are groundfloor, 2-story and 3-story buildings; each apartment is equipped with a telephone. A housing development for other employees, for approximately 2,000 workers, is being constructed on the west outskirts of Humenne, between the railroad line and the road leading to Michalovce.
4. The plant is situated on the north side of the Strazske - Vranov nad Toplou road and rail line and west of Strazske village. The railroad line was laid in 1942, and does not appear on maps. The plant is about 650-700 meters distant from the road in a northern direction. The underground part of the plant is

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#")														

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approximately 50 meters distant from the eastern border of the oak forest. It lies on a gently rising hill.

5. Legend to the sketch:

1. The underground part of the plant. It is a 2-3-story hall, of reinforced concrete, about 70 x 70 meters at the base. The roof is of concrete, with earth piled above it and some trees planted on the surface. There are no visible signs of the structure, even from close by, except that two chimneys stand out; they, however, are well hidden by the trees. A railroad spur leads into the hall and the entrance is from the east side.
  2. Railroad spur. The rail line was laid at the same time as the construction of the buildings was begun. It branches from the railroad station in Strazske and leads along the northern part of the line leading to Presov. The rail line crosses the Strazske-Vranov road near the two new transformers. For local traffic a compressed-air locomotive is used, rather than a steam locomotive.
  3. Storage buildings and auxiliary halls. East of the underground hall, in a larger area, there are several 2-3-story buildings and a row of storage and auxiliary groundfloor halls.
  4. Connecting road. Asphalt, 6 meters wide, leading to the plant. It branches off the Strazske-Presov road, just behind the railroad station. Inside the plant the road branches in several directions.
  5. Fence. The plant is enclosed with a wire-fence, reinforced by concrete pillars. On the fence signs are posted, at about 50 meters intervals, forbidding entry into the plant area. Near the fence stand three wooden towers. The entrance and the gatehouse are near the road.
  6. Transformer station. This is a newly built station equipped with 2 transformers. Electricity is supplied by the Krompachy power station, tension of 100,000 volts. The transformer station is walled-in.
1. Comment: There is no such plant listed in the 1955 Slovak telephone directory at Strazske. There is, however, a listing of Pozemne stavby n.p. pobocny zavod 191 (Ground construction, national enterprise, branch enterprise #191). Suchan enterprise is also listed at Humenne. It would appear that the name Chemkostav would relate to the construction enterprise and not to the plant after it was completed.
2. Comment: In Henkovce, about 5 kilometers distant from Strazske, a giant enterprise was constructed which produces cellulose, nitrocellulose, and similar products. It is believed that this plant will be connected with Chemko by pipeline and that the wood-combine enterprise will supply Chemko with material.

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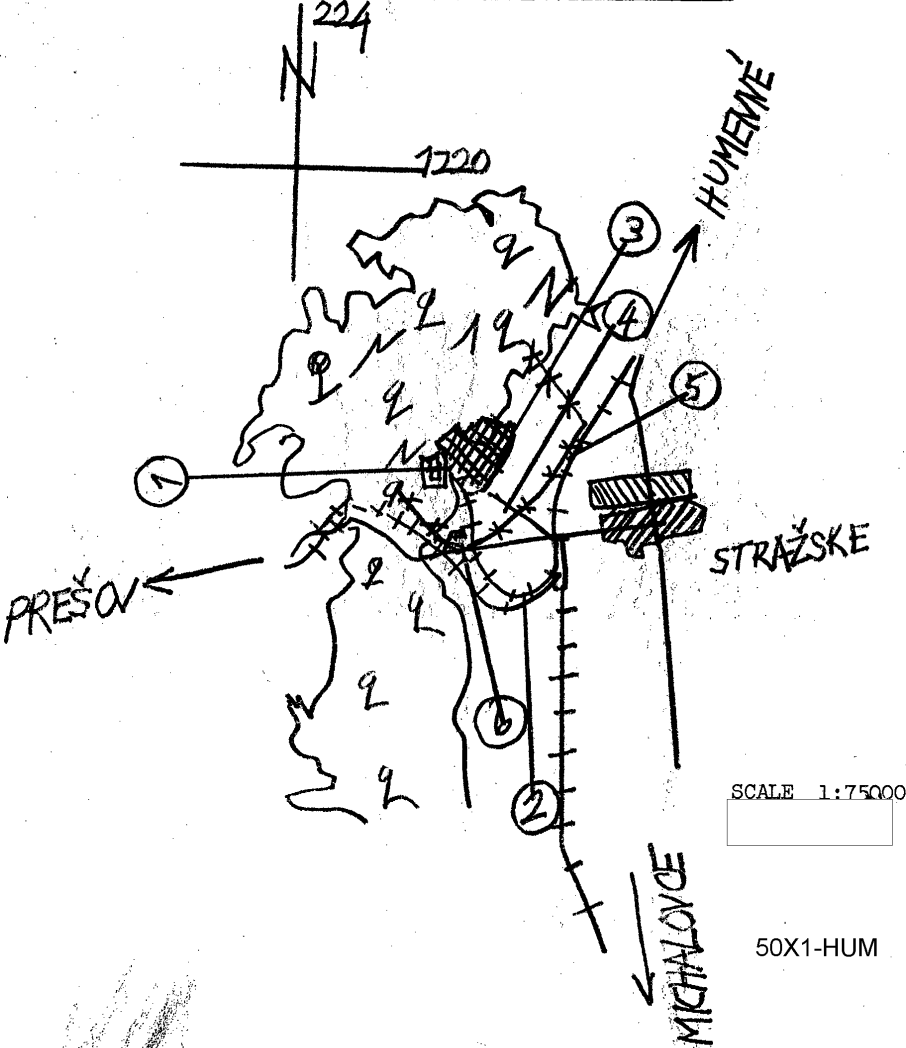
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Location of Underground Plant at Strazske



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